

2004 LEGISLATION

The following is a summary of 2004 legislation impacting the Board of Nursing passed by the Tennessee General Assembly and signed into law:

1. Public Chapter 573—Prohibits any unlicensed individual from using the titles, “nurse,” “registered nurse,” licensed practical Nurse” or the abbreviations, “R.N.” or “L.P.N.”
2. Public Chapter 577—Clarifies when the exemption to the nursing statutes applies for assistance to persons with a developmental disability or mental retardation with the self-administration of noninjectable medications.
3. Public Chapter 646—Allows registered nurses employed by PACE to pronounce death pursuant to physician approval where deceased was receiving services from the organization and death was anticipated.
4. Public Chapter 678—Requires a written or electronic prescription prepared by health care providers with authority to issue prescriptions to be legible and contain certain required information on each prescription. Requires the prescription to be signed on the day issued. DOH and the Board of Pharmacy are authorized to promulgate rules.
5. Public Chapter 734—Permits trained volunteers to assist students with diabetes, excluding insulin administration, based upon a medical management plan approved by parent and medical provider. Also requires all school nurses to be trained in diabetes care and be aware of diabetes guidelines to be issued jointly by DOE and DOH. The Board of Nursing must be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the guidelines before implementation.
6. Public Chapter 886—Requires public school nurses to maintain CPR certification and directs the DOE to initiate a study of LEAs to determine schools’ ability to employ at least one volunteer trained and certified in CPR.
7. Public Chapter 902—Requires insurance companies that provide malpractice insurance to Tennessee Health care facilities or delineated health care professionals, as well as facilities and providers who do not carry professional liability insurance, to report certain data to the Department of Commerce and Insurance by April 1st each year. The aggregate data is to be reported to the General Assembly by September 1st. Information on physicians and dentists shall be sent to DOH. Expands the list of providers who must report claims or judgments of \$5,000 or more to DOH to include dentists and makes minor changes in information that is to be reported. Allows the information to be used to fulfill the requirements of the Health Care Consumer Right-to-Know Act but not to initiate any proceedings against a facility.